



COMDTINST 5711.2
09 OCT 1990

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 5711.2

Subj: Coast Guard Transition to the Metric System

Ref: (a) Federal Standard 376, Preferred Metric Units for General Use by the Federal Government (NOTAL)
(b) Military Standard DOD-STD-1690, Maritime Metric Practice Guide (NOTAL)

1. PURPOSE. To establish policies and assign responsibilities for implementing the metric system of measurement within the Coast Guard.
2. BACKGROUND. The Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, (Pub. Law 100-418, section 5164), amended the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 to declare that:
 - a. The metric system of measurement is the preferred system of weights and measures for United States trade and commerce;
 - b. Each federal agency, by a date certain and to the extent economically feasible by the end of fiscal year 1992, shall use the metric system of measurement in its procurements, grants and other business-related activities except to the extent that such use is impractical or is likely to cause significant inefficiencies or loss of markets to United States firms.
 - c. Agencies shall seek out ways to increase understanding of the metric system of measurement through educational information and guidance in government publications.

2. d. Each agency of the Federal Government shall establish guidelines to carry out the national metric-transition policy and, as part of the agency's annual budget submission, report to the Congress on the actions taken and planned to fully implement the metric system of measurement.

3. DEFINITIONS.

- a. Metriation. Any act that increases the use of the metric system, including metric training and initiation or conversion of measurement-sensitive process and systems to the metric system.
- b. Metric System. The International System of Units, commonly abbreviated as SI (from the French "Le Systeme International d'Unites), as established by the General Conference on Weights and Measures in 1960 and as interpreted or modified for the United States by the Secretary of Commerce. Metric units used within the Coast Guard shall be those prescribed in references (a) and (b). In event of conflicting guidance, reference (b) shall govern. In this instruction, the terms metric, metric system, metric units, and SI are used interchangeably unless otherwise stated.

4. PROCEDURES.

- a. The Coast Guard will support the Department of Transportation Metric Coordinating Committee and the Naval Materiel Metriation Group as appropriate and will follow their guidelines and technical findings.
- b. The Coast Guard will develop plans for changeover to the metric system of measurement to the extent practical in accordance with Public Law 100-418. Plans will include changeovers to the metric system in address procurements, grants and other business related activities to the extent practical and consistent with security, operational, economic, technical, logistical, training, and safety requirements.
- c. When metric conversion plans include designation of activities and programs where conversion is impractical or creates inefficiencies, an analysis justifying such action shall be included as part of the plan.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES.

- a. Commandant (G-CCS) will establish Coast Guard policy for the use of the metric system of measurement and approve or disapprove deviations from that policy.

5. b. Commandant (G-CCS) will establish a Coast Guard Metrication Group (CGMG) to formulate metric policy. The CGMG will consist of representatives from all offices in Headquarters and will be chaired by the Chief of Staff's representative.
- c. The Coast Guard Metrication Group (CGMG) shall:
 - (1) Serve as focal point for collection and dissemination of metrication information and shall develop guidance and coordinate planning for transition to the metric system.
 - (2) Recommend to the Commandant (G-CCS) approaches, goals, objectives, policies and a plan for metric conversion.
 - (3) Maintain liaison and provide coordinated positions and responses to the Department of Transportation, military services and other federal agencies on matters, queries, and reports pertinent to the transition of the Coast Guard to the metric system.
 - (4) Prepare an annual report of Coast Guard metric activities. The report shall describe: major accomplishments, recommendations, metric standardization documents prepared and significant metric systems, equipment or materials being developed or acquired. The required format and content of the reports shall be specified by the CGMG chairperson.
6. ACTION. Area and district commanders; commanders of maintenance and logistics commands; unit commanding officers and Commander, CG Activities Europe shall ensure wide dissemination of this instruction.

/s/ ROBERT T. NELSON
Chief of Staff